



State of Utah  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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August 15, 1994

TO: Minerals File

FROM: Travis Jones, Reclamation Hydrologist *TwJ*

RE: Site Inspection, Tetla Septarians Mine, S/025/006, Kane County, Utah

Date of Inspection: June 30, 1994

Time of Inspection: 1200-1600

Conditions: Sunny and Warm

Participants: Travis Jones and Wayne Hedberg--DOGM

Purpose of Inspection: To measure the present disturbances and evaluate any performed reclamation.

Mark Johnson, the operator of this mine, has several quarries in the Muddy Creek area. All are within a two-mile radius of one another. Mr. Johnson was not able to attend this inspection. Some of these quarries were originally operated by Gerald Berry. Mr. Johnson has expanded some areas that were originally disturbed by Mr. Berry and has created new disturbances, also. The Division sent a letter to Mr. Berry on November 23, 1993, notifying him that the mine properties must either be formally transferred to Mr. Johnson, or Mr. Johnson must submit a new notice of intent. That letter stated that the aggregate disturbances for this project area appeared to exceed five acres. It also directed the operator to perform enough reclamation by the Spring of 1994 to bring the disturbance under five acres. To date, no permit transfer has taken place. A new notice of intent has not been filed, and this site inspection failed to show that the operator has performed any subsequent reclamation of the disturbed areas.

There are three quarries located in the NW/4 of Section 31, T40S, R7W. We measured the disturbances associated with the two largest quarries using a hip chain. The third quarry, which is quite near one of Mr. Joe Caruso's quarries, is small and was not measured due to time constraints. These three quarries are located on mineral lease ML-41355.

Another mining area operated by Mr. Johnson is located immediately adjacent (south and west?) to the area that Mike Caruso has transferred to Rex Harris.



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The transfer filed by Mr. Harris (see file S/025/007 and/or S/025/010) indicates Mr. Harris' lease area is located in the SE/4 and NE/4, SW/4, Section 25, T40S, R8W. According to the Division's inspection memo dated November 1, 1993, Mr. Johnson's disturbances are located in the NE/4, Section 36, T40S, R8W, and SE/4, Section 25, T40S, R8W. We could not confirm the exact location of Mr. Johnson's disturbances, but if any disturbances are located on Section 36, this would constitute a trespass on state lands since Mr. Johnson does not presently hold any state mineral leases in this section.

A new quarry has been created since the inspection of October 1993. A CAT tracked hoe operator (Dave Bird) began digging in an existing quarry/pit during our inspection. After a minor amount of excavation, he then moved around the back (west side?) of the ridge and proceeded to open another quarry/pit in the same general area (believed to be in Section 25, T40S, R8W). Mr. Bird did not appear to be salvaging/stockpiling any topsoil as he was digging. We approached Mr. Bird and asked if he had any instruction from Mr. Johnson to salvage available topsoil resources. Mr. Bird replied he had not been directed to separate topsoil from overburden. We asked him to please salvage and separately stockpile the topsoil/plant growth medium for ultimate reclamation purposes. However, when Mr. Bird recommenced digging, we did not observe any effort made to segregate and stockpile the topsoil material from the overburden. We are uncertain what happened in this regard after we left the site. We also noted that a local ephemeral drainage has been blocked by mined overburden. We performed some general measurements of the disturbances associated with the new pit and surrounding area with the hip chain. Our measurements gave a composite disturbance of roughly 6.5 acres for those local mining disturbances believed to be associated with Mr. Johnson's operations. This exceeds the 5-acre threshold for being categorized as a Small Mining Operation and a Large Mining Operation permit application may now be in order.

jb  
cc: Mark Johnson, Operator  
John Blake, SITLA  
Rod Schipper, BLM  
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM  
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